We claim:

1. A method of broadcasting a movie to a set-top box, the method comprising:

a content provider broadcasting via wireless telecommunication over a television frequency spectrum at least one movie to a set-top box, the movie being selected by the content provider and not by the user; and

permitting storage of the movie broadcast from the content provider in the set-top box without interaction by the user.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of permitting indicating that the movie is available for viewing once the entire movie has been received on the set top box; and

permitting viewing of said movie by a user.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of re-broadcasting movie data previously broadcast to ensure that the entire movie is received by the set-top box.

4. A method of broadcasting a movie to a set-top box, the method comprising:

a content provider broadcasting movie data to a set-top box, the content of the movie data being selected by the content provider;

permitting automatic storage of the movie data broadcast from the content provider onto the set-top box;

permitting assembling the movie data in the set top box to form at least one full movie and associated metadata;

permitting analysis of the metadata to determine when to make the movie available for viewing; and

permitting viewing of the movie in response to a user's selection of the movie.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein permitting viewing occurs upon agreement to charge the user a fee for viewing the selected movie.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein associated metadata comprises information such as time stamps which determine begin and end dates for permitted movie viewing.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein the movie selected by the user is available for viewing for a limited period of time.

8. The method of claim 4 wherein the movie selected is available for viewing for a limited number of times.

9. The method of claim 4 comprising the step of repeatedly re-broadcasting movie data thereby to ensure that the entire movie is received by the set-top box.

10. A method of broadcasting movies to a set-top box, the method comprising:

a content provider broadcasting movie data to a set-top box, the content of the movie data being selected by the content provider and not by the user;

permitting automatic storage on the set-top box of the movie data broadcast from the content provider;

permitting assembly of the movie data to form a plurality of full movies;

making selected movies available for viewing by the user at a time pre-determined by the content provider, the selected movie having previously been stored on the set top box; and

effecting removal of the movie data representing one or more movies stored on the set top box at a time determined by the content provider.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the movie data is transmitted and stored to the set top box at a time being at least one day, and preferably about a week, before making the movie available for viewing.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the movie data comprises audio and video to form a movie and associated metadata, wherein the metadata indicates the

time predetermined by the content provider to make the movie available for viewing by the user.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the movie is a new release and the time predetermined by the content provider to permit viewing by a use is an official release date for the new release.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein movie data is broadcast to the set-top box using standard file transfer protocols.

15. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of repeatedly re-broadcasting movie data thereby to ensure that the entire movie is received by the set-top box.

16. The method of claim 10 wherein a movie is made available for viewing by the user upon payment of a fee.

17. A method of broadcasting a movie to a set-top box, the method comprising:

a content provider broadcasting movie data to a set-top box, the content of the movie data being selected by the content provider; and

permitting automatic storage of the movie data broadcast from the content provider onto the set-top box.

18. A method of broadcasting movies to a set-top box for storage and subsequent viewing, the method comprising the steps of:

selectively broadcasting data wirelessly from a content provider to a set-top box;

remotely controlling when to make data available for viewing by the user; and

remotely controlling when to remove data from the set-top box.

19. The method of claim 18 including permitting the user to select when to view selected data during an available access time, the user selectively viewing the

data on one or more television sets, and the set top box being a unit separate from the one or more television set.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein payment for a permitted viewing of the data is made by the user through a separate telephone line.

21. The method of claim 18 wherein selectively broadcasting data permits the content provider to determine the data to be broadcast wirelessly to the set-top box.

22. The method of claim 18 wherein data is broadcast by encoding data onto standard broadcast television signals.

23. A method of content management for a remote hardware device, the method comprising the steps of:

collecting content to be transmitted to a remote hardware device;

generating metadata specifying various properties of the content;

associating the metadata with the content;

transmitting the content and its associated metadata to the remote device;

permitting automatic storage of the data received at the remote device;

providing software for operating on the remote hardware device to process the metadata and manage the content according to its associated metadata.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the metadata comprises information indicating when to make content available to the viewer and when to remove content from the hardware device.

25. The method of claims 18 herein comprising the step of repeatedly re-broadcasting movie data thereby to ensure that the entire movie is received by the set-top box.

26. A method of providing movies available for purchase or rental directly to remote viewers through broadcast communication, the method comprising:

providing a viewer with a set top box, the set top box having a hard drive for storing a plurality of movies;

broadcasting movie data to the set top box and allowing movie data to accumulate on the hard drive; and

providing software resident on the set top box, the software being programmed to:

automatically store the movie data broadcast to the set top box;

assemble the movie data into a plurality of viewable movies and associated metadata;

analyze the metadata to determine when a movie should be made available; and

allow the user to select the available movie when available.

27. A method as claimed in claim 26 wherein the movies are available fro a predetermined limited time and thereafter are essentially removed by the broadcaster.

28. A method as claimed in claim 26 wherein the movies are encrypted thereby to limit the availability in at least one of the following respects, being copied multiple times, being viewed more than once, or being viewed or copied other than when predetermined criteria are met.

29. A method as claimed in claim 26 wherein the movie is broadcast by encoding data representative of the movie onto standard broadcast television signals.

30. A method of creating a digital home movie library, the method comprising the steps of:

having a content provider broadcast movie data to a plurality of set-top boxes, the content of the movie data being selected by the content provider and being uncontrolled by the user;

automatically storing on the set-top box the movie data broadcast from the content provider;

assembling the movie data to form a plurality of full movies; and

making one or more of the movies available to the user at a time predetermined by the content provider.

31. A method as claimed in claim 30 wherein the movies are available fro a predetermined limited time and thereafter are essentially removed by the broadcaster.

32. A method as claimed in claim 30 wherein the movies are encrypted thereby to limit the availability in at least one of the following respects, being copied multiple times, being viewed more than once, or being viewed or copied other than when predetermined criteria are met.

33. A method as claimed in claim 30 wherein the movie is broadcast by encoding data representative of the movie onto standard broadcast television signals.

34. The method of claim 26 wherein payment for the data is made through a separate telephone line.

35. The method of claim 30 wherein selectively broadcasting comprises the content provider determining what data is broadcast wirelessly to the set-top box.

36. A method of providing a dynamic media library to a set-top box, the method comprising:

having a content provider broadcasting media data to a plurality of set-top boxes, the content of the data being selected by the content provider and not being selected by the user;

automatically storing the media data broadcast from the content provider on the set-top box; and

providing a user interface for the user to browse the media library.

37. A method of distributing movies directly to viewers at home comprising:

providing a viewer with a set top box, the set top box having a hard drive for storing a plurality of movies and software for permitting access to the movies;

broadcasting at least one movie and associated data to the set top box wirelessly prior to an official release date for the movie, the associated data regulating the release date of the movie on the set top box; and

automatically storing the movies and its associated data to the set top box hard drive;

analyzing the associated data to determine when the movies should be made available for viewing; and

permitting viewing of the movie on its release date.

38. A method of renting a movie to a remote user, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting electronically a plurality of movies to a set top box located with the user, the movies comprising a selection of movies essentially similar to hard copies of movies at a local movie rental store;

automatically storing the electronic form of the broadcast plurality of movies on the set top box;

permitting the user to select from the plurality of stored electronic movies, at least one of the movies for viewing; and

charging a fee to view the one of the plurality of movies.

39. The method of claim 38 whereby the step of transmitting comprises wirelessly broadcasting the movies through a datacast television broadcast system.

40. The method of claim 38 whereby the step of transmitting comprises transmitting via the Internet.

41. A digital home movie library system for providing access to movies comprises:

an antenna and tuner for receiving broadcast signals;

a hard disk drive for storing movie data transmitted by the broadcast signals and received through the antenna; and

a processor for executing software, processing data received through the antenna and tuner, and for processing user input commands to permit access to the stored movie data under predetermined control conditions.

42. A digital home movie library as claimed in claim 41 including a modem to permit electronic billing of the user for access of the library.

43. A system for providing access to movies comprising:

an antenna and receiver for receiving broadcast signals;

a processor for executing software, processing data received through the antenna and tuner, and for processing user input commands to permit access to the stored movie data under predetermined control conditions;

a hard disk drive for storing movie data transmitted by the broadcast signals and received through the antenna; and

a smart card secured to a circuit board of the receiver, the smart card facilitating a dedicated use of the receiver with a designated user.

44. A system as claimed in claim 43 including a modem to permit electronic billing of the user for access to the movies in the hard drive storage.

45. A system of claim 43 wherein the receiver and antenna form part of a set top box for operation with a monitor.

46. A system of claim 43 wherein the receiver and antenna form part of a set top box, and including an integral fastening of an active component of a smart card to a circuit board of the set top box thereby to impede removal, and enhance the security of the set top box

47. The system of claim 43 including a secondary external smart card slot for use with another smart card in case the system becomes compromised.

48. The system of claim 46 wherein the smart card is fastened to a main board of the set top box with epoxy.

49. A method of a remote user receiving and processing a broadcast of a movie to a set-top box, the method comprising:

receiving through an antenna a content provider broadcasting via wireless telecommunication over a television frequency spectrum of at least one movie, the movie being selected by the content provider and not by the remote user; and

storing of the movie broadcast from the content provider in a set-top box without interaction by the user.

50. The method of claim 48 further comprising the step of indicating to the user that the movie is available for viewing once the entire movie has been received on the set top box; and

permitting viewing of said movie by a user.

51. The method of claim 48 further comprising the step receiving a re-broadcasting of movie data previously broadcast to ensure that the entire movie is received by the set-top box.

52. A method of a remote user receiving a movie broadcast to a set-top box, the method comprising:

receiving movie data broadcast by a content provider to a set-top box of a user, the content of the movie data being selected by the content provider;

storing of the movie data broadcast from the content provider onto the set-top box;

assembling the movie data in the set top box to form at least one full movie and associated metadata;

analyzing of the metadata to determine when to make the movie available for viewing; and

viewing of the movie in response to the remote user's selection of the movie.

53. The method of claim 51 wherein viewing occurs upon agreement to charge the user a fee for viewing the selected movie.

54. The method of claim 48 wherein the movie selected by the user is available for viewing for a limited period of time.

55. The method of claim 51 wherein the movie selected is available for viewing for a limited number of times.

56. A method of a remote user receiving a broadcast movies to a set-top box, the method comprising:

receiving from a content provider movie data broadcast to a set-top box, the content of the movie data being selected by the content provider and not by the remote user;

automatically storing on the set-top box the movie data broadcast from the content provider;

assembling of the movie data to form a plurality of full movies;

selecting movies for viewing by the user at a time pre-determined by the content provider, the selected movie having previously been stored on the set top box; and

permitting removal of the movie data representing one or more movies stored on the set top box at a time determined by the content provider.

57. The method of claim 55 further comprising the step of repeatedly receiving rebroadcast movie data thereby to ensure that the entire movie is stored by the set-top box.

58. The method of claim 55 wherein a movie is made available for viewing by the user upon payment of a fee.

59. A method of receiving a broadcast a movie on a set-top box of a remote user, the method comprising:

receiving a broadcast movie from a content provider broadcasting movie data to a set-top box, the content of the movie data being selected by the content provider; and

storing for a predetermined time on the set top box the movie data broadcast from the content provider onto the set-top box, the predetermined time being established by the content provider.

60. A method of permitting a remote user to view a showcasing of the contents of a digital movie library, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a user interface comprising a scrolling marquee and a window, whereby the scrolling marquee features a plurality of images, each image representing a movie, and the window contains a video loop, comprising trailers for movies; and

permitting the user to view the interface.

61. A method of claim 59 wherein the remote user receives and processes a broadcast of a movie to a set-top box, the method comprising:

receiving through an antenna a content provider broadcasting via wireless telecommunication over a television frequency spectrum of at least one movie, the movie being selected by the content provider and not by the remote user; and

storing of the movie broadcast from the content provider in a set-top box without interaction by the user.

62. The method of claim 60 wherein viewing occurs upon agreement to charge the user a fee for viewing the selected movie.

63. The method of claim 61 wherein the movie selected by the user is available for viewing for a limited period of time.

64. A method of broadcasting designated audio content to a hardware device, the method comprising:

a content provider broadcasting via wireless telecommunication over a designated frequency spectrum at least one audio to a hardware device, the designated audio content being selected by the content provider and not by the user; and

permitting storage of the designated audio content broadcast from the content provider in the hardware device without interaction by the user.

65. The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of indicating that the designated audio content is available once the entire designated audio content has been received on the hardware device; and

permitting access to said designated audio content by a user.

66. The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of re-broadcasting designated audio content data previously broadcast to ensure that the entire designated audio content is received by the hardware device.

67. A method of broadcasting a designated audio content to a set-top box, the method comprising:

a content provider broadcasting designated audio content data to a hardware device, the content of the designated audio content data being selected by the content provider;

permitting automatic storage of the designated audio content data broadcast from the content provider onto the hardware device;

permitting assembling the designated audio content data in the hardware device to form at least one full designated audio content and associated metadata;

permitting analysis of the metadata to determine when to make the designated audio content available; and

permitting access to the designated audio content in response to a user's selection of the designated audio content.

68. The method of claim 66 wherein permitting access occurs upon agreement to charge the user a fee for viewing the selected designated audio content.

69. A method of broadcasting a designated video content to a set-top box, the method comprising:

a content provider broadcasting via wireless telecommunication over a television frequency spectrum at least one video to a set-top box, the video being selected by the content provider and not by the user; and

permitting storage of the video broadcast from the content provider in the set-top box without interaction by the user.

70. The method of claim 68 further comprising the step of permitting indicating that the video is available for viewing once the entire video has been received on the set top box; and

permitting viewing of said video by a user.

71. The method of claim 68 further comprising the step of re-broadcasting video data previously broadcast to ensure that the entire video is received by the set-top box.

72. A method of broadcasting a video to a set-top box, the method comprising:

a content provider broadcasting video data to a set-top box, the content of the video data being selected by the content provider;

permitting automatic storage of the video data broadcast from the content provider onto the set-top box;

permitting assembling the video data in the set top box to form at least one full video and associated metadata;

permitting analysis of the metadata to determine when to make the video available for viewing; and

permitting viewing of the video in response to a user's selection of the video.

73. The method of claim 71 wherein permitting viewing occurs upon agreement to charge the user a fee for viewing the selected video.

74. The method of claim 71 wherein the video selected by the user is available for viewing for a limited period of time.

75. The method of claim 71 comprising the step of repeatedly re-broadcasting video data thereby to ensure that the entire video is received by the set-top box.

76. A system as claimed in claim 41 wherein the set-top box includes a modem, and wherein the set-top includes software to periodical permit contact with the content provider through the modem.

77. A system as claimed in claim 75 information passed between the content provider and the set-top via the modem includes at least one of a user's viewing/rental history, access information used for billing purposes, set-top performance logs to monitor the performance of the system or keys used to decrypt videos.

78. A system as claimed in claim 75 wherein the processor simultaneously plays a video and reacts to signals from a remote control, and modem activity.

79. A system as claimed in claim 75 wherein the hard drive is physically mated with the set-top box structure for security purposes thereby rendering it useless for its intended storage purpose if removed for intended use apart from the set top box.

80. A method of broadcasting movies to a set-top box for storage and subsequent viewing as claimed in claim 18 wherein videos stored on the set top box are encrypted, and upon selection of a video to view and satisfaction of business rules, the set top box permits the video to be decrypted and played.

81. A method of broadcasting movies to a set-top box for storage and subsequent viewing as claimed in claim 18 wherein the set-top box is not necessarily connected to the content provider after the video is stored, and prior to allowing a video to be viewed, the video being capable of independent decryption by electronic keys on the set-top box along with the current account status.

82. A method of broadcasting movies to a set-top box for storage and subsequent viewing as claimed in claim 18 including logging a decryption of a movie and using this log to determine a user's bill.